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AREA FOREIGN MINISTERS HOLD CONFERENCE FOR PEACE

Arrival in Panama

PA200112 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Venezuela, Guatemala and Honduras arrived in Panama City today to continue the consultations to find a peaceful solution to the Central American political conflict. Host Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado said that during the talks that will contine tomorrow a line of action will be adopted to seek convergences and not differences on the Central American crisis.

Meanwhile, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco, upon arrival in Panama, said that the work of the Contadora Group will be renewed here. He added that the group has achieved respect in its attempts to promote detente and peace. He explained that the suspension of actions by the OAS Permanent Council and the UN Security Council in regard to the Central American conflict gives a vote of confidence to the Contadora Group.

Ekhart Peters, Acting Costa Rican Foreign Minister, said that his country supports an active neutrality in the region, and added that the success of the Contadora Group formed by Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia and Panama has been in organizing a meeting of Central American foreign ministers after the Honduran, Costa Rican and Salvadoran failure to do so in February.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola said that the work of the Contadora Group is a helpful effort because it sets a precedent for unity in Latin America.

The meeting of Central American, Panamanian, Venezuelan, Mexican and Colombian foreign ministers will begin tomorrow in Panama City. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena, Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Caicedo Lloreda and Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor will arrive in Panama tonight.

Costa Rica Cites Role

PA201330 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0230 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Interview by Demetrio Olaciregui with Ekhart Peters, acting Costa Rican foreign minister, in the Diplomatic Room at Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport in Panama City, on 19 April -- recorded]

[Text] [Peters] Costa Rica's position on Central America's problems has been defined by the president of the republic as active neutrality. We don't want to become involved in the wars between certain Central American countries, but we do want to be present and to participate in any effort to achieve peace in Central America, along with democracy. This our position. We have bilateral problems with Nicaragua, but those problems can be solved bilaterally. Furthermore, we are willing to make every effort to solve them bilaterally.

Peace in Central America also worries us tremendously, because the wars or tension in Central America cause serious problems for us. They cause us serious economic problems and very serious social problems, for we have a large flow of Central American refugees into Costa Rica, which must be taken into consideration. It is not just a fraternal attitude on our part; basically, it is a matter of Costa Rica's interests.

We are very concerned about peace in Central America. Our presence here means that we are willing to contribute to any effort to achieve peace in the area.

[Question] Are you suggesting that conditions for achieving peace in the area are more more favorable now than on previous occasions?

[Answer] Well, the fact that the Contadora Group managed to organize this meeting is a success in itself. In February of this year, Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador proposed a meeting of Central American foreign ministers, but the suggestion was not accepted at the time. Now, in April, a similar proposal by the Contadora Group was accepted by all and we are happy and pleased with their success. We intend to participate in this conference with great hopes that good results will be obtained.

Venezuelan Minister's Comments

PA201341 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0230 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Interview with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco in the Diplomatic Room of Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport in Panama City, on 19 April -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] What does Venezuela expect at this second round on consulations here in Panama?

[Answer] We expect to work hard again, as we did the first time, in search of understandings leading to new actions that are geared toward detente and peace.

[Question] Do you feel that there is a better political desire at this point, after you toured Central America in search of peace in the area?

[Answer] I think that the most important aspect of that first tour was that it enabled us to establish contacts that provide us with a clear vision of each of the countries' views. We thus obtained what we might term legitimacy for our actions, because we cannot pursue any initiatives that are unwanted by the parties involved. Nor do we intend, in any way whatever, to impose views that are unaccepted by the parties involved. In our first action we achieved legitimacy for our current peace effort. I think that in these new consultations, new lines of action will emerge.

[Question] The Permanent OAS Council left the course to be followed to achieve peace in Central America in your hands. Have your received any additional proof of support from the OAS?

[Answer] One of the first achievements of the last meeting was that we got both the OAS Permanent Council and the UN Security Council to discontinue their activities. We were sure that with this first achievement, the Contadora Group was truly in a position to further its efforts.

[Question] Is the Contadora Group planning to hold a joint meeting or are you going to meet individually with the Central American foreign ministers?

[Answer] I cannot say yet what line of action will be followed. We will meet early tomorrow to outline new actions intended to achieve understanding. We hope to be able to contribute certain ideas after that meeting.

[Question] We understand that you will tour Europe and visit the Soviet Union following these consultative meetings.

[Answer] I received an invitation to visit the Soviet Union some time ago. This is to be an essentially political visit, mostly bilateral in nature.

Ministers Begin Meetings

PA201610 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1434 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Panama City, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The foreign ministers of nine Latin American countries saw daylight today in this capital. It has been decided that they will meet by groups, not jointly, in some as yet undetermined location in this capital.

According to the organizers of the event, the foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, who comprise the "Contadora Group," will meet with each of their Central American counterparts separately or with two or three of them at a time, but no joint meeting of the nine ministers has been scheduled. The "Contadora Group" wants to reconcile the Honduran, Costa Rican, Salvadoran and Guatemalan views on a "mulilateral dialogue" to resolve the regional crisis, with Nicaragua's request that its difficulties be discussed "bilaterally" with Honduras and the United States.

The meeting, which is a continuation of the effort undertaken in early April by Colombian President Belisario Betancur, has not set agenda or any other conditions. According to Panamanian sources, due to the gravity of the Central American situation, the greatest possible flexibility is being sought. Betancur and the "Contadora Group" foreign ministers began taking steps in view of the danger of imminent direct, armed confrontation between Nicaragua and Honduras.

Nicaraguan Minister's Remarks

PA201704 Paris AFP in Spanish 1609 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Panama City, 20 Apr (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto charged today that the Honduran Government is subject to U.S. "pressures" that "are increasingly leading it toward involvement in warlike actions." D'Escoto also gave "categorical support" to the attempts to achieve peace carried out by the Contadora Group -- Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama -- in Central America, asserting that "they can be of great help in preventing a war."

According to the minister, "Honduras may say that it wants peace; it is even possible that it may indeed want peace, but certain pressures are increasingly leading it toward involvement in warlike actions." According to D'Escoto, the United States is "responsible" for these pressures.

"How can Honduras want peace, when it is lending its territory to the Somozist camps and its army is involved in the struggle?" the minister asked rhetorically. He added that Honduras' position has been marked by "systematic rejection of the peace initiatives calling for direct dialogue."

As for Honduras' charge yesterday that the Sandinists had allegedly attacked a Honduran fishing boat "in Honduran waters," D'Escotot said that the situation is the very opposite and that the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has already accused Honduras of staging an act of aggression.

"Nicaragua is being attacked and Honduras is participating in an increasingly active manner in the aggressive U.S. campaign against Nicaragua," he stressed.

He attributed Honduras' repeated appeals for multilateral dialogue to "pressure from the United States," which favors this type of negotiation.

Finally, he said that he hopes that the second round of consultations conducted by the Contadora Group will result "in an increasingly active commitment to dialogue."

Honduran Minister on Sandinist Violence

PA201902 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The foreign ministers who signed the Contadora Agreement met this morning with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella, with whom they exchanged viewpoints on the critical Central American situation.

Afterward, the ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela went to the fifth floor of the National Bank of Panama, where they initiated negotiations, planning to establish contact later with their colleagues from the Central American countries.

These important officials are staying at the Continental Hotel and at the Panama Hilton. The two countries facing serious confrontations are Honduras and Nicaragua. As a result of a Panamanian protocol strategy, those two countries' ministers were placed in different hotels: Edgardo Paz Barnica is staying at the Continental Hotel and Nicaragua's Miguel d'Escoto is at the Panama Hilton.

It is very difficult to foretell what the results of this meeting will be, since the Nicaraguans are markely belligerent. The Honduran foreign secretary said this morning that Nicaragua's excessive arms buildup is a source of continuous concern for its neighboring countries and that its war material is being supplied by Havana and Moscow: [Begin Paz Barnica recording] We believe that Nicaragua is engaged in a very dangerous arms buildup that is very grave for institutional stability in Central America. [end recording]

Edgardo Paz Barnica also said that Nicaragua is promoting violence and instability in the Central American area: [Begin Paz Barnica recording] Nicaragua is dedicating itself to the export and incitement of violence. As to whether or not we may expect an armed conflict, I can only assure you is that if Nicaragua wants war, Honduras wants peace and it will work for peace morning and night. [end recording]

The Honduran foreign secretary admitted that the situation between his country and Nicaragua is very tense: [Begin Paz Barnica recording] Despite the efforts of President Roberto Suazo Cordova's democratic Honduran Government, the situation between Honduras and Nicaragua has turned tense and critical at some points. There have been sea and ground border incidents, provoked by the Sandinist People Army.

We believe that there should be adequate mechanism for preventing these problems. That's the reason for this Panama meeting, sponsored by the ministers of the so-called Contadora Group; Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico. We think that this meeting is timely, suitable and sensible, as only through dialogue and negotiations may a stable and lasting peace be achieved in the Central American area.

We think that the Central American problem, the Central American drama, should be solved in a general and regional context, since this is not an isolated situation between Honduras and Nicaragua, between Nicaragua and El Salvador or between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Nicaragua has problems with almost all of the Central American countries. All related problems should be treated as a whole and regionally, because this is the way to consolidate democratic institutions, within the framework of a lasting peace, and to prevent destabilization activities like those promoted by Nicaragua against the democratic and pluralist systems that exist in Central America. [end recording]

More on Meetings

PA210101 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] After breakfasting Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella, the nine foreign ministers of the area that includes from Mexico to Venezuela began an analysis of the Latin American situation today. They divided themselves into three groups. Here is a report on this meeting:

The Contadora Group is meeting on the 15th floor of the Banco Nacional building. At 1000 the members of this group -- Bernardo Sepulveda Amor of Mexico, Rodrigo Lloreda of Colombia, Jose Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela and Juan Jose Amado of Panama -- began a series of individual meetings with the five Central American foreign ministers.

This morning, the Contadora Group had breakfast with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella in a work session during which the Panamanian president reiterated his offer to make Panama the site of meetings to find formulas for understanding which will lead to peace in Central America.

During the 1-hour breakfast, the Contadora group reviewed the opinions of the Latin American nations regarding the Central American situation. They expressed confidence in the meeting which they began here in Panama with the five Central American foreign ministers so that they can talk and seek points of agreement in order to decrease tensions that are gradually increasing inside some of these countries or between neighboring nations.

However, the method of work adopted was the formation of a group [as heard] with Foreign Ministers Ekhart Peters of Costa Rica, Edgardi Paz Barnica of Honduras, Fidel Chavez Mena of El Salvador and Eduardo Castullo Arriola of Guatemala who are staying at the Continental Hotel. Meanwhile, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has been lodged at the Panama Hotel which he will use as his residence and place of work.

Maintaining views which are already well known and amid a climate of moderate optimism, the nine foreign ministers decided to remain silent until the end of the meetings tomorrow when they will return to their respective countries. However, Paz Barnica has been an exception because he described the efforts for a dialogue for peace in the region as opportune and wise. But he maintained that the Central American problems must be discussed as a whole and not separately.

Before returning to their countries the nine foreign ministers will meet with De la Espriella for what was described as a protocol greeting. The official source which gave us this information refused to supply the schedule for the meeting.

Further Ministers' Comments

PA210251 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Apr 83 pp 1-A, 6-A

[By Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Excerpts] Upon arriving in Panama last night Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said that his country has come to the Contadora Group meeting with "sentiments of peace" to work for peace in a "general and regional" context.

The Honduran official explained that the reason why his country proposes a general and regional solution is because Central America is a region of the American continent with a historic unity based on the same culture, traditions and customs.

Paz Barnica emphasized that Central America is going through a difficult moment that will have historic impact; a dramatic moment of political turmoil and social erosion that has become more acute with two events that opened trends: the triumph of the Sandinist Revolution and the overthrow of "fascist" dictator Carlos Humberto Romero. These two events gave room to recovery processes and the people opened their eyes.

"Unfortunately, processes as encouraging as that of Nicaragua have been moved away from their original guidelines," Paz Barnica said. He noted that the Central American problems should be analyzed taking in consideration the Nicaraguan arms buildup and the arrival of arms in the other countries of the area, including his.

"The arms buildup is a regional problem" Paz Barnica said, while condemning the problem of foreign military advisers which, he said, is a problem related to other problems.

After his remarks, Paz Barnica recommended that it is better to face the matter from a general and regional point of view in order to reach permanent and serious agreements and understandings to assure an authentic peace based on justice and human dignity.

Speaking energetically, Paz Barnica put emphasis on a peace based on justice and human dignity as opposed to an armed peace based on "violence, force and anarchy."

The Honduran official reiterated that his country is not against bilateral dialogue; on the contrary, he said, "it is open, but it wants a general and regional solution." Paz Barnica said that the Contadora Declaration is being implemented since a good tour has been made and its results are evident with this "consultative meeting."

Paz Barnica said that the big powers have the great responsibility of safeguarding peace, but he rejected the idea that the problem falls in an East-West context. Paz said: "We want this area to be an area of peace and not a polarization point of the big powers." The Honduran Foreign Secretary said that the problems must be solved with a high Latin Americanist spirit.

Regarding his country's relations with Nicaragua, Paz Barnica said that efforts have been made to improve these relations, that there have been ups and downs, but now they are in a "critical state."

"If Nicaragua wants war, Honduras wants peace," Paz Barnica said. "You can be sure of that," he added.

Meanwhile, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola said on his arrival that Guatemala is concerned over the situation. He blamed an "uncontrolled arms race" for the situation in the area.

He said that in Central America there is no other peaceful solution than the democratic one: through the polls and a dialogue aimed at avoiding a regionalization of the conflict and at promoting the basis for ideologic pluralism.

Castillo said that there is great interdependency in the area and that a worsening of the situation could "splash" the entire region.

Castillo agreed with his colleagues saying that the Central American problem must be solved by Central Americans without interference from extracontinental or regional countries.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo referred to the disposition of the countries of the area and said that this disposition "has been assured" with the contacts made last week by the ministers of Panama, Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia.

However, he said that it was hard to predict results and we should wait for the second round of talks to end.

Referring to the good-will efforts being carried out by the Contadora Group, Lloreda Caicedo said that this was possible because "Latin America should be able to present its own plans for solving its problems, without others' suggestions."

He said that Latin America should have the ability and maturity to make a profound analysis of the situation and naturally to ask for help and assume that the countries inside and outside the region have the best interest in seeing the consultation process progress.

Finally, Llordea Caicedo said that the Contadora Group Countries have every intention of stopping the deterioration that has been going on in the past years in Central America. At a time when the crisis is increasing and worsening, those countries want the peace effort to carried out. They want to find a way to solve the problems peacefully through a "civilized dialogue."

When this report was written, Foreign Ministers Fidel Chavez Mena of El Salvador, Miguel d'Escoto of Nicaragua and Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico had still not arrived.

PRESIDENT ON LAST LEG OF TOUR THROUGH PATAGONIA

PY201425 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Yesterday, within the framework of his tour through Patagonia, President Reynaldo Bignone held a lengthy press conference in Rio Gallegos. Later on the president left for Trelew, where he was met by the governor of Chubut Province. With his visit to this city, the president will complete the last phase of his tour through Patagonia.

47 SECRET DETENTION, TORTURE CENTERS REPORTED

PY202355 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Apr 83 pp 1, 11

[By Douglas Tweedale]

[Excerpts] The Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) yesterday released a list of 47 secret detention centres it claims were used by the armed forces to house and torture political detainees after the military coup of March 24, 1976. "These clandestine detention centres were the places where kidnapped persons were taken for their identification, interrogation and torture," Noemi Labruna, a CELS director, said yesterday at a press conference. Many of the clandestine detainees were held for extended periods of time during which they were believed to be missing, she said. The list of detention centres (13 in the Federal Capital, 15 in Buenos Aires Province and 19 in the rest of Argentina) was compiled from the testimony of 65 people who were held in the camps for varying periods of time and then released.

Labruna said that the testimonies provide "an accurate picture of daily life in the camps" and that there is ample evidence to conclude that the military authorities of the detention centres kept careful lists of the detainees under their charge and kept records of their eventual fate. The CELS officials said they could neither confirm nor deny reports that some of the detentions centres named located on military bases are still operational, because of the difficulty of obtaining information about military facilities. Labruna said that CELS and other human rights organizations do have definite information that some of the centres not on military installations have been dismantled.

Among the locations which CELS alleges served as secret detention centres for the armed forces during their so-called "dirty war" against left wing terrorism are the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA), the "Club Atletico" set up by the Federal Police, the Army's "Olimpo" centre at Avenida Olivera and Ramon Falcon (visited after being dismantled by the OAS' Inter American Human Rights Commission delegation in 1979; and two detention centres at Campo de Mayo.

Asked about the reliability of the testimony on which the report is based, CELS Vice President Augusto Conte MacDonnel said that "Anyone who doubts that these camps existed at this stage of the game is either stupid or ill-willed, because the evidence is absolutely unquestionable. And that includes the judges who have had ample access to information about this," Conte MacDonnel added.

SILES ADDRESSES ROUNDTABLE ON AID FOR NATION

PY202218 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 1522 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Speech by President Hernan Siles Zuazo at opening of international roundtable meeting on international aid for Bolivia held at the Central Bank building in La Paz --live]

[Excerpts] Miss (Margaret Auschultz), representative of the UN secretary general, Dr. Enrique Iglesias, executive secretary of ECLA, Mister Director for Latin America of UN Programs for Development; ambassadors, representatives of friendly nations and of international organizations; vice president of the Republic Jaime Paz; chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Samuel Gallardo; ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, I want to express my profound gratitude and recognition for the expressions of support and solidarity with the Bolivian people voiced by Mr Enrique Iglesias and Miss (Margaret Auschultz).

I have no intention of telling you about my interpretation of the world crisis at this meeting. But I do want to call your attention to an event which I feel is very important. The cost of that crisis is being distributed in a very unequal manner among the countries throughout the world.

Considering the seriousness of this event, it would seem that only the principle of self-preservation prevails. Under these circumstances, it is obvious that the weak are the most seriously affected. That is to say, protectionist measures are imposed on those countries that need trade most of all with developed countries, and those that need foreign financial aid have lost all access to it because they have to accept tough financial conditions to obtain it.

Those that seek international support often find that everything is subject to conditions unilaterally established by the most powerful nation.

For all these reasons, this meeting is rather encouraging. I am convinced that we have begun this meeting with a spirit of respect for autonomous Bolivian decisions and orientations and with a desire to help our country follow the path it has chosen.

By saying that the cost of the world crisis is being distributed unequally, I am not trying to overlook the fact that the underdeveloped countries must also shoulder part of the responsibility for the critical situation they are now facing. This is especially so because their governments were not very prudent in their financial policies or were carried along by the idea of a broad expansion of foreign trade and finances.

I believe that the underdeveloped countries should carry out joint actions which will allow them to share the costs of the world crisis. In principle, they should appeal to the good will of the peoples and governments of developed countries, seeking their understanding and solidarity, such as the Bolivian Government is doing at this meeting. We must also unite in order to jointly confront the crisis and establish common principles of negotiation.

At this point, I wish to point out that the government and people of Bolivia acknowledge and are grateful for the fraternal support received during the past few months from Argentina, Brazil, the United States and the Andean Pact member countries.

This support has once again proven that despite the differences between our national histories and the centrifugal forces which sometimes separate us, the spirit of Latin American brotherhood will always prevail.

It can be stated that the objective of establishing a society with an independent economic development and social justice are the great principles of my government's ideology. As a consequence, in the first place, we have advocated the strengthening of a social and political democracy and, therefore, have increased the peoples' participation through a co-management system. In the second place, we have sought to reestablish public morale and the country's prestige, which had been stained before the world, as well as restoring the state's role. In the third place, we have advocated the establishment of an economy aimed at satisfying the Bolivian majority's needs within the framework of an institutional order where private and public enterprises are respected and where those enterprises, whose actions are in keeping with the development policy established by the democratic state, are encouraged.

With regard to the economic problems, the critical situation we inherited forced us to establish an emergency policy through which we have rationalized the use of the little foreign currency available. We renegotiated a large part of the short-term foreign debt; we put an end to the floating dollar; we reduced the rate of inflation; we stopped the decline of production; we rehabilitated the role of the state in the leadership of economic policies; we guaranteed a minimum level food supply to the poor sectors; and we gradually increased the buying power of the poorest social groups.

This description of the conditions under which this government received the country can by itself explain this call for cooperation made to friendly countries and international organizations. Our request is endorsed by our democratic condition and our dedication to serving the great majority of the country.

The foreign relations we wish to establish will undoubtedly become a very useful element at the commercial and financial level, but above all, they will help to create more just and stable international relations.

Regarding our own medium-and long-range development plans, we are fully convinced that we can repay in kind the international cooperation we receive at this time. As an example, our purpose is to more than double the country's exports before the end of this decade. In this manner, we will create the necessary conditions to fulfill our foreign commitments and convert Bolivia into a positive factor of international cooperation.

Regarding our foreign debt, the bitter experience we are suffering obliges us to ponder the policies under which our future foreign economic relations will operate. From now on, these policies will have to develop under a different style. The neo-liberal systems of the past will no longer be the system inspiring the economy. Financial development will no longer depend, as it did until very recently, on the unilateral evaluation of foreign banks. Despite the fact that the ineffectiveness of this policy has been demonstrated, efforts are now being made -- at a time when the cost of the errors is having to be distributed -- to transfer this policy to this democratic government in its entirety.

The attitude of our fellow Latin American governments at this time of crisis has revived our belief that it is necessary to enhance regional trade and financing in our foreign relations. As is public knowledge, the government grants full support to any project always provided that they will lead to a balanced relationship.

It is necessary that international organizations help us straighten out our problems and find the best way to solve them. In this regard, we enthusiastically support the proposals of Ecuadorean President Osvaldo Hurtado requesting that the high leadership of the Economic Commission for Latin America, ECLA, and the Latin American Economic System, SELA, submit ideas which could become the basis of Latin American thinking on the current situation and the beginning of a program for the countries of the region to solve the crisis.

Ladies and gentelemen, in the name of the Bolivian people, I am again grateful for the presence of all of you in our land, which is now a land of free men. [applause]

BOLIVIA-SPAIN COMMISSION CLOSES 2-DAY MEETING

PY210015 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0125 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] La Paz, 19 Apr (EFE) -- Today Spain and Bolivia signed various agreements providing for aid to Bolivia. The agreements were signed at the end of a 2-day meeting of the mixed Spanish-Bolivian commission held to discuss the furthering of bilateral cooperation. Representatives from the Spanish and the Bolivian delegation who examined the assistance programs underway and decided on the drawing up of new programs, expressed their satisfaction to EFE on the progress made during the meeting.

Bolivian Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Franklin Anaya stated that all the agreements signed with Spain are very important and praised the spirit of cooperation shown by the Spanish delegation.

On their part, Spanish Ambsssador to Bolivia Tomas Lozano, who headed the Spanish delegation, and Spanish Foreign Ministry Deputy Director Fernando Martinez, who served as vice chairman of the meeting, pointed to Spain's firm decision to contribute to Bolivia's development.

The mixed commission, which was provided for in the Spanish-Bolivian agreement signed in 1971, opened a meeting in La Paz on Monday to evaluate the numerous bilateral programs underway and to draw up new programs. The meeting was reported to have drawn conclusions on various topics.

The final minutes of the meeting point to the differnet degress of aid that Spain will give to Bolivia for the implementation of urban, mining, health, tourism, education, farming and livestock, aeronautical, and science and informatics programs.

The Spanish delegation stated that in keeping with the agreements signed today, Spain will send equipment, medicines, several experts and other kinds of aid to Bolivia soon, adding that the agreements provide for their immediate implementation.

It was also decided that the mixed commission will meet again in Madrid in 1985 and that the studies to draw up new programs will be carried out on a continuing basis.

The Spanish delegation, which traveled to participate in the meeting, was made up of officials from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Labor, Education and Agriculture as well as of officials from various autonomous organs. The delegation was received by Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo today. Members of the Spanish delegation told EFE that Siles Zuazo expressed great interest in Spain's aid to Bolivia, especially as far as the literacy plan begun 10 days ago is concerned.

On closing the meeting, Bolivian Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Anaya pointed to the friendly Spanish-Bolivian ties and to the new stage of the bilateral relations. A spokesman for the Spanish delegation stated that Bolivia is now among the countries to which Spain gives priority attention.

ARGENTINE MINISTER AFFECTED BY TRAFFIC BLOCKADE

PY210040 Paris AFP in Spanish 0410 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] La Paz, 19 Apr (AFP) -- It was reported in La Paz today that Argentine Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot and Bolivian Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado could not return to La Paz as a result of a street blockade carried out by the people of El Alto, a populous neighborhood of La Paz. Martinez Vivot, who is paying an official visit to Bolivia, and Ortiz Mercado were forced to withdraw along with a caravan of cars to a military air force base, where the two ministers were picked up by a helicopter.

Ortiz Mercado tried to persuade the infuriated people from El Alto to lift the blockade by promising them to intercede so that President Hernan Siles Zuazo would honor their claims. The El Alto people want public buses to cover the itinerary established by the national traffic directorate. However, the two ministers could not continue with the trip because the people decided not to lift the blockade.

At the same time, all the travelers who arrived in La Paz by plane, including important private businessmen, had to walk all the way into the city of La Paz carrying their luggage because it was impossible to reach the city by car.

Negotiations between the conflicting parties were intensifed in the past few hours to solve the issue.

Street Blockade Suspended

PY201340 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Transport and Communications Minister Hernando Poppe Martinez told journalists that the blockade that was being carried out by people from the El Alto neighborhood of La Paz has been suspended following the signing of an agreement.

The minister stated that as of Wednesday, public vehicles will begin to serve the various neighborhoods and to cover the intineraries regularly covered by commuter vans and buses.

On making the report, Poppe Martinez stated that the National Transportation Enterprises will begin operating at the beginning of May. (passage ommited)

SENATE, CHAMBER MEMBERS ON COMIBOL INTERVENTION

PY210314 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Hector Ormaechea, chairman of the Mining and Metallurgy Commission of the Senate, expressed to Panamericana his total disagreement with the FSTMB [Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia] intervention of Comibol [Mining Corportation of Bolivia].

Ormaechea stated that the Senate is very concerned because the intervention of Comibol, one of the main sources of hard currency for Bolivia, is an attack against the law. He added that the intervention has created havoc that has drawn the attention of both Bolivian and foreign people.

[Begin Ormaechea recording] The Senate is very concerned over this issue because the strike by Comibol technicians has been allowed to last too long and because the government neither attended to nor resolved the labor conflict in due time. The Senate has submitted two resolutions requesting that the government reach an agreement with Comibol's technician.

The Senate is also very concerned, mainly because the measure is an attack. No organization, whether public or private, can be overwhelmed in this way. There is a legal system in force and this affront is by no means justified. We cannot understand why the government has not yet adopted any measure to restore order to this havoc. I cannot find any other word to describe this situation. This is the opinion of the Mining Commission. [end recording]

Ormaechea stated that the Senate by no means agrees with Comibol's intervention. Here are his statements:

[Begin Ormaechea recording] No, the Senate cannot agree with an act ion that is against the law. The legislative branch and all the legislative commissions were established by law and the main function of the legislative branch is to make sure that the law is observed. [end recording]

For his part, Agustin Ameller (Gattica), president of the Commission of Mining, Metallurgy and Iron and Steel Industry Sectors of the Chamber of Deputies, stated that the intervention is an unprecedented event in the history of Bolivia's mineworkers' movement. In reply to questions from journalists, Ameller (Gattica) said that co-management will be imposed in Comibol as a result of the intervention. Ameller (Gattica) said that the commission has asked the Chamber of Deputies to summon the mining and labor ministers to make an oral report on the issue.

[Begin Ameller recording] Early tomorrow, the two ministers will answer the following questions: 1. What is the supreme government's position regarding Comibol's intervention by the FSTMB; 2. Mr Labor Minister, please outline the measures adopted to resolve the strike by Comibol's professionals, and 3. Mr Mines and Metallurgy Minister, please outline the mining and metallurgical policy and state to what extent you have implemented the policy to resolve the serious problems affecting the mining sector. These three questions will make it possible for us to find out what the executive branch's position is before issuing a resolution to resolve this conflict under the Constitution. [end recording]

Ameller also stated that the country should try to capitalize Comibol and leave aside political (?) aspects such as intervention or workers co-management.

PLAN SOUGHT TO END CUBAN INFLUENCE IN SURINAME

PY200356 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Apr 83 p 13

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- According to Planalto sources, the main subject that was discussed yesterday during the successive meetings that Gen Danilo Venturini, special minister for land affairs -- who had just returned from Paramaribo -- held with Gen Rubem Ludwig, chief of the military household; Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro, and SNI [National Intelligence Service] Chief Octavio Medeiros, was a special cooperation program with the objective of pulling Suriname out of the area of influence of Cuba.

Yesterday afternoon, the presidency issued a note in which it reported that during the negotiations held from Friday to Saturday between Minister Venturini and the commander in chief of Suriname, Col Daysi Bouterse, "both expressed their countries' desire to preserve South America from the consequences of confrontations which are foreign to the area." A Planalto source explained that this means that Suriname assured the Brazilian Government that it will prevent the entrance of Cubans into the country in exchange for a cooperation program which would take Suriname out of the isolation imposed on it by the United States and The Netherlands in view of the execution of opposition leaders last December.

The same source noted that this cooperation may be granted by the United States through Brazil since the United States is prevented from supplying any aid to Suriname by Congress in view of human rights violations. Moreover, the source noted that the United States warned the Brazilian Government that Suriname was about to become an important Cuban ally and that this would pose a serious threat to the northern Brazilian border. In view of this, President Figueiredo decided to expedite negotiations that were being carried out by Itamaraty by sending his personal envoy, Minister Venturini, with a "carte blanche" to negotiate a cooperation program with Suriname with the purpose of taking Suriname out of Cuban influence.

LIBYAN PLANES WITH WAR MATERIEL DETAINED

Destination Reportedly Paramaribo

PY201406 Paris AFP in Spanish 1334 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo (AFP) -- Citing unofficial police sources from the capital of the State of Amazonas, the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO stated here today that the three Ilyushin Libyan planes that landed at the Brazilian airport in Manaus intended to take off for Paramaribo (Suriname). The newspaper added that the airplanes should have been released at 0600 this morning (0900 GMT) but the decision was suspended by orders of the federal government in Brasilia that ordered a strict control of the airplanes.

Government to Seize Arms

PY202305 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Presidential Press and Information Secretary Carlos Atila tonight spoke to newsmen about the incident involving the Libyan planes which are being held in Manaus and Recife.

The follwoing is (Eduardo Mancar's) report on the subject: Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila is now meeting with newsmen to outline the Brazilian Government's position regarding the Libyan planes which landed and are being held in Recife and Manaus.

Atila will now outline the provisions adopted by the Brazilian Government. [Begin Atila recording] In view of this, those ministers whose area of responsibility is affected by the incident met today, and this afternoon it was decided to take the following course of action: The Foreign Ministry will notify the Libyan Embassy that the Brazilian Government has decided to unload the planes to inspect their cargo. The Libyan Embassy will be asked to appoint a representative of the Libyan Government to attend this operation. Once the cargo has been inspected, the planes (?will be released) and that part of their cargo consisting of arms will be confiscated and a decision will be made on these arms at a later time. [end recording]

NICARAGUAN ENVOY COMMENTS ON ARMS CONFISCATION

PA210210 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0131 GMT 21 Apr 83

[By Rene Villegas]

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 20 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Official sources announced this evening that the Brazilian Government will maintain custody of the war materiel that four Libyan planes, which were detained in Brazil, were transporting to Nicaragua. The materiel was disguised as medical supplies.

Carlos Atila, press secretary of the Presidency of the Republic, said at a news conference that a thorough inventory will be made of the cargo transported by the four foreign aircraft.

Meanwhile, Ernesto Gutierrez, Nicaraguan ambassador to Brazil, told this news agency by telephone that the cargo Brazil is retaining was a Libyan Government "donation" to Nicaragua and that he did not know its contents. When asked if this incident did not confirm the U.S. President's charges of an alleged terrorist threat in Central America, the Nicaraguan envoy added: "Reagan is the terrorist and his victims are the peoples of Central America."

REPORT ON FINANCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO U.S.

PY210125 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Finance Minister Ernane Galveas is leaving today for the United States. Galveas will contact U.S. economic officials tomorrow and Friday in Washington in order to improve trade between the two countries. A group designed to study economic issues will be set up at this time. This group will be made up of representatives from the U.S. Department of Commerce and Department of Treasury and from Brazilian economic ministries.

The inclusion of Brazilian products in the U.S. general system of preferences through a 6.5 percent tariff exemption will again be discussed. This will make Brazilian products more competitive in relation to U.S. products. The need for Brazil to participate in the U.S. Pacific Coast and Midwest markets to obtain more U.S. dollars and to increase bilateral trade will also be discussed. On Saturday, Galveas will go to New York. On Monday he will go to Mexico to join President Figueiredo's entourage in Cancun on 26 April.

MINISTER NETTO LEAVES CHICAGO FOR JAPAN 20 APR

PY210001 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Planning Minister Delfim Netto left Chicago today for Japan on a 3-day visit to hold talks with the Japanese finance and international trade ministers and with officials of the leading Japanese banks on 22 April. From Tokyo, the planning minister will go to Mexico to join the entourage of President Figueiredo who will make an official visit to that country next week.

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ATTENDS LONDON MEETING

Langoni on Debt

PY191258 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Brazil does not intend to renegotiate its foreign debt for the moment, Central Bank President Carlos Langoni stated. Brazil wants the foreign banks to accelerate the disbursement of the $3 billion promised for the following programs; three loans for imports and exports, and four interbank loans. Langoni feels that the meeting held yesterday in London between Central Bank technicians and representatives of foreign banks achieved its basic objective; that of reducing the degree of uncertainty regarding the Brazilian 1983 financial program.

Finance Minister's Comments

PY191335 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Finance Minister Ernane Galveas has said that the proposal to suspend payment on the Brazilian foreign debt for 3 months is inappropriate, because once we start suspending payments, we do not know where it might end up. The finance minister also said that the meeting held in London between Central Bank technicians and representatives of foreign banks was excellent. We are trying to have loan disbursements as they were committed to us under projects 3 [three different loan requests for imports and exports] and 4 [interbank loans] on 30 June 1982, and even though we will not reach this level, we will be close to it.

$3 Billion Loan Approved

PY191940 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] A total of 12 international banks led by the Morgan Guaranty Bank of the United States have concluded talks with Brazilian representatives on a $3 billion loan requested by Brazil. Our correspondent Alberto Tamer reports directly from London via satellite: [Begin Tamer relayed report] A British enterprise reported today that the banks that held a meeting here yesterday to discuss a $1.5 billion loan had reacted favorably to the Brazilian request. The newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES states that the banks have agreed to exert pressure on the small- and medium-size banks to take care of Brazil's request to complete another $1.5 billion loan that was promised in October 1982. The FINANCIAL TIMES, which enjoys great prestige in this city, adds that the banks feel that it is possible to achieve from the small- and medium-size banks a $1.5 billion loan because without it Brazil will not be able to reach the goal of exporting products for a total of $22 million. And if Brazil does not reach this objective, all banks will lose, the British newspaper conlcudes. [end relayed report]

PINOCHET CRITICIZES DETRACTORS, AFFIRMS OPTIMISM

PY201930 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Relay from Government by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] At noon today President Pinochet made reference to those who do not appreciate the great task carried out by this government and pointed out that these same people do not hesitate in magnifying the problems.

These statements were made during a speech addressed to the voluntary workers of the National Foundation for Aid to the Community on the 8th anniversary of the organization, which was celebrated with a ceremony held at the main hall of the Diego Portales Building. The ceremony was attended by Lucia de Pinochet in her capacity as president of the foundation.

In his speech to the voluntary workers, the president stated that the entire country knows who is taking advantage of the difficulties our fatherland is experiencing.

The president also pointed out that despite the lack of understanding, libel, unjust criticism and systematic lies spread by our adversaries, our government will maintain its unwavering position and continue along the path which was chosen by the majority. The government, he pointed out, carries out its task with faith since it has the support of organizations, such as this foundation, which channel their efforts to the rewarding task of serving others.

In a message addressed to students of the U.S. National War College, who arrivedin Chile last night as part of a tour through three Latin American countries, the president voiced his belief that Chile, like other nations, will overcome the current crisis it is enduring. The U.S. delegation will stay in Santiago until next Saturday.

PARTIES SUPPORT BETANCUR'S C.A. PEACE EFFORTS

PA202023 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota -- After saying at a meeting with party leaders that it is frightening to see the violence in Central America, President Belisario Betancur received general support from the nation's political parties for the continuation of his mediating peace mission for that region.

Betancur said among other things that the stability or instability of Central America and the Caribbean affect us deeply. We cannot remain indifferent to developments there, he added.

The president indicated that honored tradition gives us the authority to participate in the peace efforts without any urge to play a leading role. He added that we Colombians want to present ourselves as a nation that respects the principles of self-determination and nonintervention. He pointed out that it is terrifying for the victims and for us to see local conflicts being internationalized and to realize that regional controversies, which we could resolve with our own hands, might become dangerously involved in the big powers' disputes.

Former Presidents Misael Pastrana Borrero and Alfonso Lopez Michelsen attended the meeting at Narino Palace as permanent members of the advisory Foreign Relations Commission. Other participants were Liberal leaders Luis Carlos Galan, (Jose Name Teran), Alberto Santofimio Botero, (Eduardo Abuchairo Ochoa), Conservative (Alvaro Rueda Teran) and Socialist Gerardo Molina. All of the political leaders indicated that no sector of public opinion can remain indifferent to the government's desire to reduce the tension in Central America, putting an end to violence and introducing peace and harmony throughout the region.

According to former president Pastrana Borrero, President Betancur received the political leaders' support to continue the mediation he is directing with the Contadora Group countries.

M-19'S BATEMAN SKEPTICAL OF BETANCUR'S AMNESTY

PA210200 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2305 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota, 20 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Jaime Bateman, foremost leader of the guerrilla 19 April Movement (M-19), said today that President Belisario Betancur was left in the middle of the road of the path for peace. He added that the chief of state "began to conciliate with forces that do not permit peace to become a reality, because he is pressured, hemmed in."

Bateman made this statement to newswoman Maria Cecilia Orozco at an undetermined location along Colombia's Caribbean coast. The reportage will be broadcast today by the state television channel's "Nightly Newscast." Maria Cecilia Orozco and other Colombian journalists were "invited" to dialogue with Bateman, Carlos Toledo Plata and Alvaro Fayad on the occasion of the M-19's 13th anniversary yesterday.

The guerrilla leader revealed that he had instructed the M-19 militants who accepted the amnesty to return underground "because they are being killed."

At President Belisario Betancur's initiative and in an effort directed at reestablishing peace in Colombia, the Colombian Congress approved an amnesty law in November for the rebels. According to official and press estimates, some 500 guerrillas accepted the amnesty. Meanwhile, the M-19 declared a truce, which was apparently broken yesterday by a thwarted attack on Puerto Asis in southern Colombia. Five attackers were killed.

In his statement to reporters, Bateman said that the path which President Betancur's government is taking "is not positive." "They are beginning to engage in demagoguery, politicking, and exclusivity," and the government is working for its upcoming election campaign, Bateman said.

He denied any links with the People's Revolutionary Organization (ORP), which held U.S. geologist Kenneth Bishop captive for more than a month. Bateman warned, however, that "if we have to kidnap to finance our activities, we will do so."

M-19 Rebels Killed in Attack

PA201215 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1945 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Five 19 April Movement (M-19) guerrillas were killed in combat with the Army today during an unsuccessful attack on Puerto Asis, in the southern part of the country, military sources have reported.

The guerrilla attack, apparently marking the 13th anniversary of the founding of the group, took place simultaneously with the release of an M-19 communique urging Belisario Betancur "not to promote the path of war any longer." The guerrilla communique states that Betancur "attempted with the amnesty not to construct peace, but to obtain the guerrilla movement's surrender and to subdue protest."

A report from the Army command indicates that the attack on Puerto Asis occurred in the morning and that there were no military casualties.

FARC Guerrillas Killed

PA191404 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota -- Five FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrillas were killed by the Army in Arauca. Meanwhile, another group of guerrillas were killed by the Army in Arauca. Meanwhile, another group of guerrillas attacked the Rionegro International Airport in Antioquia Department and stole a large number of weapons.

The National Defense Ministry confirmed that during a clash on Saturday near Tame, in Arauca intendance, five members of the 10th front of the clandestine FARC were killed. The dead included the commander of the guerrilla column who used the alias (Avidio). The clash occurred during the operation in search of rancher (Edison Delgado), who was kidnapped last week in that area. Army Captain (Luis Javier Guadumen Camargo) was wounded in the clash. He was moved to the central military hospital in Bogota.

INTERIOR MINISTER RESIGNS, REPLACEMENT APPOINTED

PA210108 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0041 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Lima, 20 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- President Fernando Belaunde had to face a brief cabinet crisis with the sudden resignation of Interior Minister Fernando Rincon, the official ANDINA News Agency has reported. Rincon who took office on 3 January presented his resignation this afternoon to Belaunde, who accepted it, according to ANDINA.

The agency indicated that the new interior minister is Luis Percovich, who up until today was fisheries minister and was chairman of the House of Deputies. The report added that the new fisheries minister is Fortunato Quesada, an attorney. The new ministers will be sworn in tomorrow before Belaunde in the Government Palace.

TERRORIST BOMB ATTACKS IN HUANCAYO, AYACUCHO

PY210215 Paris AFP in Spanish 1758 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Lima, 20 Apr (AFP) -- It was reported here today that the CORREO newspaper and an automobile business were attacked with bombs in Huancayo, in the central part of the country, last night and that several charges of dynamite exploded in Ayacucho, southeast of Lima.

The attacks in Huancayo, attributed to the Shining Path extremist organization, caused considerable damage but no casualties.

Ayacucho Blasts

PY201852 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Several dynamite attacks took place in Ayacucho last night. Terrorists carried out several attacks against public and private buildings last night but the police repelled the attacks in a shootout. The terrorist attacks were carried out in the Santa Ana and Libertador neighborhoods and in the recently built Madi urban development.

The police and military forces immediately moved into these areas in armored vehicles. There was no black out and the situation is being kept under control by the security forces.

PRESIDENT TELLS WORKERS OF PLANS FOR PROGRESS

FL202320 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1845 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Speaking to some 1,000 state service workers, the president of the republic said that Mexicans find themselves once again challenged to move the country ahead, not only with responsibility but also with sacrifice.

President Miguel de la Madrid reiterated that these are the most difficult times for the fatherland because we are affecting the population's real standard of living through an unusual inflation.

These are the times when Mexicans are once again being put to the test to push the country forward and beyond these circumstances, in order to resume a normal pace in our growth and take new directions in our development, the chief executive asserted.

The president urged the bureaucracy to contribute toward overcoming, not only the problems of quantity but also, and above all, those of quality.

In order to achieve this, he insisted, we must draw from our feeling of nationalism and our revolutionary spirit to keep the nation's course of democracy and liberty and place ourselves on the foundation of the moral renewal of society which consists basically of overcoming personal interests in favor of the supreme interests of the nation.

He reiterated his promise to fulfill his responsibility to the nation by example, serving the great people of Mexico and the fatherland, which we all love with serenity and responsibility, confronting and not postponing problems.

I will always tell the Mexican people the truth, I will listen to them and lead them toward the fulfillment of the higher destiny fixed for us by past generations and which we accept and are committed to fulfill, the president said.

ANTI-INTERVENTION RALLY SET AT U.S. EMBASSY

PA201425 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Tomorrow, 21 April, more than 15,000 Mexican will gather in front of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico to demand that the U.S. Government not intervene in the domestic affairs of the Central American and Caribbean peoples. This was announced by (Adalberto Santana), of the Mexican National Coordinating Board of Solidarity with Nicaragua and the Hands Off Nicaragua Support Committee. (Santana) is attending the international conference for peace and sovereignty in Central America and the Caribbean, to be held in Managua on 21-23 April. He added that the main objective of that campaign is peace in the face of the Reagan Administration's dirty war against the Sandinist people's revolution. He said that all of Mexico's social sectors are united to contribute to the search for a political solution in Central America and the Caribbean. Here is (Adalberto Santana) talking about what should come out of the international conference for peace and sovereignty in Central America and the Caribbean.

[Begin recording] A statement should be issued demanding peace in the face of the war imposed by the U.S. interventionists. But such statement must not remain on paper.

It should be a statement that can be implemented in the various countries that are sending representatives to this meeting. There should be great pressure all over the world to prevent the objective of Ronald Reagan's administration, which is precisely to intervene directly in Nicaragua. We Mexicans are bringing that proposal for peace and for the development and strengthening of peace in the world and in support for the Nicaraguan revolution. [end recording]

Solidarity With Nicaragua

FL160156 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0035 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Hands Off Nicaragua Committee today established here the Coordinating Committee of Solidarity With Nicaragua, made up of more than 45 political, labor, cultural, student and people's organizations, it was announced in a press conference.

The coordinating committee announced the organization of a protest march from the center of the capital to the U.S. Embassy, among its first actions. On the way, it was reported, the march will hold mass rallies in front of the Honduran and Guatemalan diplomatic missions.

The demonstrators will protest U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Central America as well as condemn the visit to Mexico next Monday by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Simultaneously with that protest march, it was announced a demonstration by other organizations, organized by the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, to condemn U.S. intervention in El Salvador and the aggression against Nicaragua.

In addition, 15 labor unions from different areas of production today called for the formation of a broad front of solidarity with Nicaragua.

HAVANA CITES SHULTZ, SEPULVEDA ON C.A. PROBLEM

PA192306 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda have expressed differing views in their approach to solving the conflicts in Central America, a topic that was at the center of their talks in Mexico City.

Sepulveda expressed total disagreement with the U.S. policy on Central America, and reiterated that Mexico will continue working for political solutions to the problems in the region. In turn, Shultz stressed that Washington is determined to achieve its objectives in Central America.

Shultz is making an official visit to Mexico in the company of the U.S. treasury and commerce secretaries, Donald Regan and Malcolm Baldrige, respectively.

SECRETARY OJEDA ON FISHING AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

FL202225 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1945 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Acapulco, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Fishing Secretary Pedro Ojeda Paullada outlined here today the advantages of having Mexico and the United States sign a regional agreement for conservation and for tuna fishing in each country's exclusive economic zone.

Ojeda Paullada opened the Sixth General Congress of the Single Union of the Secretariat of Fishing Workers at the Port of Acapulco and said he was against the indiscrimate exploitation of tuna.

The secretary said the agreement between Mexico and the United States should guarantee fishing in each exclusive economic zone and a fair system of exploiting the marine resources of the two nations.

He said that at the end of the meeting of the Mexico-U.S. Binational Commission, headed by Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Secretary of State George Shultz, the possibility of having the two countries sign a regional agreement for the conservation of tuna in the eastern Pacific was advanced.

He pointed out that the agreement to be considered by the U.S. side is along the line of Mexican laws and on the basis that Mexico retains sovereignty over marine life in the zone and that it is willing to work out a fair system for the conservation of resources.

COLUMNIST ON U.S. CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY

FL202050 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1505 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Editorial by Sadot Fabila Hernandez]

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican foreign policy regarding the serious Central American problems has been excellent because of its fairness and far vision and it can now be asserted that that diplomacy has moved very wisely in recent times.

Although it is rightly thought that the diplomacy of the Contadora group is the correct and reasonable road to bring peace to Central America, several disturbing questions remain, such as the following: Is it probable that the Central American dictatorships will accept the peaceful negotiation of their conflicts? Will Washington desist from its arbitrary interference in order to join the peace efforts of the four Latin American foreign ministers?

The conduct of those dictatorships should not be analyzed at its face value since their governments are not autonomous, because, as is known, their policy is guided from Washington, where there is much anxiety over the possibility of a total failure of the Central American dictatorial forces.

Therefore, the thing that should be watched is Ronald Reagan's policy, which is basically motivated by the preservation of the large material interests held by the United States in Central America, a circumstance that has made it impossible to achieve the longed-for peace, freedom and autonomy of the peoples in the Latin American isthmus region.

Since Washington is aware that those peoples can achieve national independence -- as Nicaragua has done -- the interventionist policy it has been following in Central America is myopic.

However, the United States has never been a fire-eating colossus, which it showed by fleeing in time from the Vietnamese battlefield. That unforgettable experience should serve to draw some good lessons which will be very useful for the pacification of the dramatic Central American conflicts.

Because of the strong efforts of the Contadora group, the harsh anti-U.S. protests throughout the world and the fierce liberation struggles in Central America, Washington will soon have to abandon its hegemonic interventionism and give way to the farsighted Mexican thesis of a negotiated solution to the numerous conflicts in that region.

PPS LEADER CHARGES U.S. WANTS TO ANNEX TERRITORY

PA182259 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 16 Apr 83 p 3

[By Angel Aguilar]

[Text] On Behalf of leading organizations of the nation and the capital, as well as on behalf of their youth and of the Popular Socialist Party ((PPS), Cuauhtemoc Amezcus Dromundo pointed out yesterday during an anti-imperialist meeting held before the Boy Heros' Monument that the United States is fiercely attacking the Mexican economy and political stability through many specific actions. Amezcua Dromundo also charged that the United States wants to seize our energy resources -- oil, gas and uranium -- in order to annex all of Mexico later.

A large number of PPS leaders met in front of the Boy Heros' Monument yesterday afternoon to repudiate the coming visit of George Shultz and Donald Regan, U.S. secretaries of state and treasury, respectively, who will arrive in Mexico City next Sunday.

Amezcua Dromundo said that the fierce imperialist attack against the Mexican economy includes the tuna embargo; the establishment of a tariff barrier against 55 Mexican export products; the manipulation of the international oil market to cause a price collapse; the raising of international credit interest rates; the expulsion, detainment and mistreatment of Mexican undocumented workers; and the infiltration of provocateurs and destabilizing and espionage groups into the national territory.

He indicated that imperialism has pursued two basic purposes in recent years. One, he added, is to prevent Mexico, in full exercise of its sovereign rights, from continuing to offer solidarity and support to other fraternal peoples attacked by the United States, such as the Nicaraguan people.

Within the framework of this first aspect, Amezcua Dromundo further stressed that the Yankee government wants to attack Mexico separately to make its task easier; hence it is annoyed by the aid and solidarity that the Mexican Government and people have traditionally offered to those nations that fight for the defense of their sovereignty and self-determination. The other purpose, he added, is to seize the natural resources first and then to annex the entire Mexican territory.

The PPS leader said that Shultz and Regan are not coming to Mexico to make a courtesy visit. Their visit is in line with imperialism's goals against Mexico and other fraternal peoples.

He said categorically: "The presence of those representatives of imperialism if offensive to our heroes and is an insult to our people." Amezcua Dromundo added that the assertions by some agents of imperialism that the past must be forgotten are untrue.

"These are not things of the past. The armed aggressions, which were the primary form of attack against us, gave way to other methods after some time: penetration and economic plunder through foreign investments, cultural penetration and, more recently, financial penetration through the trap of foreign indebtedness."

DETAILS, RESULTS OF DRUG FIGHTING OPERATIONS

FL141330 Bridgetown CANA in English 1103 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Feature "Mexico Fights Drug Traffic" by Ellen Hampton]

[Text] Mexico City, April 14, CANA-REUTER -- Marijuana, heroin and dollars are key players in the illegal trade between one of the world's largest suppliers, Mexico, and the world's largest narcotics market, the United States. Profit and proximity push the flow across the 2,597-km (1,933 mile) border between the two countries. Narcotics go by private plane, cargo ship and cars equipped with false panelling. The demand is high and the supply ready. But the prosecution does not rest. In 1976, Mexico began "Operation Condor," a sophisticated programme of narcotics control that joins Mexico's federal state and local authorities. They are assisted by U.S. agents. The programme has been expanded with "Operation Puma" and "Operation Ganador" covering the entire country, and the government last year pumped millions of pesos and thousands of agents into the anti-narcotics campaign.

On a visit here last week, U.S. Attorney General William French Smith held up the Mexican programme as a model to the world. "Trafficking in illegal drugs is an international problem that requires an international response," Smith said. "The efforts of the Government of Mexico to eradicate the cultivation and sale of illicit drugs stand as an excellent example to all the countries of the world that are working to combat this evil."

Since Operation Condor began, Mexican authorities have confiscated two million kg (about 4.5 million pounds) of marijuana, destroyed 190,644 poppy plantations, closed 112 opium-manufacturing laboratories and arrested 26,246 people, according to the Mexican attorney general's office. Almost daily, a fleet of helicopters spreads over 13 narcotics zones in search of marijuana and poppy fields. Agenst spray fields with poison, even the controversial Paraquat, to kill the plants. Mexico's market for marijuana, even for the powerful type called Acapulco Gold, slowed somewhat in the United States after warnings circulated that Paraquat-contaminated marijuana was being harvested anyway.

Mexico's market for heroin flourishes. In the mid-1970's Mexico became the United States' major heroin supplier. Mexican poppies are harvested, processed into an opium paste and shipped to the United States, where the paste is refined into brownish-coloured heroin. At the top, narcotics is a billion-dollar business. But the bottom can mean big money too, an enticing prospect to farmers barely subsisting in a crippled economy.

Mexico passed a law in 1978 to allow a lesser penalty, two to eight years in prison, for a farmer who grows marijuana or poppies out of economic desperation or ignorance. Those who knowingly cultivate narcotics for profit face seven to 15 years in prison, a spokesman for the attorney general's office said.

The best incentive for not planting this kind of plant is guaranteed prices for corn, beans and other crops, the spokesman said. J. Antonio Sam Lopez, director of narcotics control for Mexico, echoed Attorney General Smith's sentiments on shared responsibility. "In this battle, there is no nationality. There is only a community." Sam Lopez said. "The fight is for the good of humanity."

PEMEX WILL NOT INCREASE EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

PA202006 Paris AFP in Spanish 1733 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr -- (AFP) Mario Beteta, director of Pemex, reiterated today that Mexico will not increase its petroleum exports to the United States, because current sales are at the limit established by the Mexican Government.

The official explained that the position on diversification of oil exports is based on the policy of selling no more than 50 percent of export production to one country or more than 20 percent of that country's import needs.

Beteta said that 50 percent of Mexico's petroleum exports are being sold to the United States and added thatm if the need arises, the decision to increase the quota would be the direct responsibility of the federal government.

He also said that no reasons exist in the short term to increase those exports to the United States, for there are other countries that are willing to purchase more Mexican crude oil.

Pemex Production, Export Figures

FL201410 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2335 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) reported today that it will obtain incomes of $16 billion this year through foreign sales. This figure is higher by $377 million than that attained in 1982.

The state company reported that last year's exports of crude gave the country an income of $15,623,000,000 with a daily average of 1,492,000 barrels, exported to 25 countries. Out of those sales, 49 percent went to the United States.

The company then reported that its foreign debt totals about 20 billion pesos (about $133 million). The debt is now being renegotiated in coordination with Mexican Finance Secretariat officials. The report explained that PEMEX has started negotiations with various international credit institutions to which it is in debt in order to extend the terms of payment to 8 years, probably with another 4 years of grace.

The report also said that it is expected to reach a top export volume this month of 1.5 million barrels of crude per day out of a daily production of 2.75 million barrels, at the prices of $23 for heavy Maya and $29 for light Isthmus crude.

COSTA RICA

ARDE CALLS 'CONTADORA GROUP' TO REFLECTION

PA210152 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2335 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Spokesman for the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde) and the Alliance of Exiled Nicaraguan Workers [Alianza de Trabajadores Nicaraguenses en el Exilio -- ATN] have issued a communique calling the "Contadora Group" meeting in Panama to reflection. ATN notes that Central America is on the verge of a conflagration, and blames the Nicaraguan FSLN for the situation.

Among the charges against the Sandinist leaders is their having mocked the OAS, the Andean Pact's efforts to rid Nicaragua of Somoza and having done away completely with trade union rights.

They also affirm that in their homeland there is no freedom of religion or worship, that freedom of the press has not existed for a long time, and that "to distract the peoples from their own problems, now they want to declare war on Honduras." The labor leaders declare that all Latin American countries are awaiting the resolution of the "Contadora Group" foreign ministers and note that this compels those ministers to seriously fulfill their commitment.

Meanwhile, Arde, led by Eden Pastora, Alfonso Robelo and Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera, claims that its efforts to secure the internal social peace of Nicaragua have been futile, because the Managua commanders have not fulfilled their original commitments or the OAS resolutions.

"The FSLN shows a preferential orientation toward the Soviet bloc through Cuba's permanent and ostensible interference" in Nicaragua's domestic affairs, Arde declared.

Spokesmen for this organization recounted the many formulas proposed to reach a political solution to the problem of their country, without their having received any attention on the part of the Sandinist Government.

"All of these formulas announced in 1981 and 1982, plus the peace commitment presented by Arde in January 1983, agree that it is absolutely necessary to secure internal social peace prior to securing peace in Central America and the implementation of the revolutionary commitments," according to the document released in this capital.

POSTS ALONG NICARAGUAN BORDER REINFORCED

PA200310 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0041 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose, 19 Apr (DPA) -- The government today reinforced its border posts along the Nicaraguan border in view of rumors that fighting between Sandinists and anti-Sandinists is imminent in that region. The Rural Guard posted 50 men in Los Chules, as well as in Los Corrales and in Delta on the San Juan River. The garrison of La Barra del Colorado at the mouth of the river of the same name was also reinforced.

Benito Zeledon, director of the Rural Guard, said that in the past few days in the region of San Carlos, near the Nicaraguan border, they seized a machinegun, 2,000 rounds of ammunition, clips, 70 FAL rifles and 10 M-1 carbines. He said that nobody was arrested because the arms were found abandoned.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON GARCIA RESIGNATION

PA210315 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0202 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia resigned as defense minister because he was exhausted. He resigned after having agreed to continue in his post for 90 days after Lt Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez' January rebellion, Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana disclosed today.

In an exclusive interview with ACAN-EFE, President Magana said that Garcia submitted his resignation last October. Garcia then reiterated his resignation in January and March. However, President Magana asked General Garcia to postpone his decision, especially during the January rebellion of Ochoa Perez in Cabanas Department.

President Magana thought that from the institutional viewpoint there was no advantage in connecting Ochoa Perez' rebellion to Garcia's resignation; so he asked Garcia to stay on and the general offered to stay for no more than 90 days.

"On 18 March there was a commanders meeting in which there was practically a general declaration in favor of Garcia, but on that same afternoon Garcia again submitted his resignation," President Magana told ACAN-EFE. "Last week, Garcia asked me to accept his resignation, which I did. The resignation was dated 12 March, which was made effective last Monday," President Magana added.

The day after his resignation was accepted, Col Juan Rafael Bustillo, the Air Force commander, demanded the defense minister's resignation. Bustillo threatened to declare himself in rebellion. However, President Magana discarded any relation between the two issues, since Garcia had already resigned when Bustillo made his threat. On the other hand, President Magana admitted the existence of some officers who support the political ideas of the extreme right party Nationalist Republican Alliance. Arena.

"The current crisis and injustices attributed to the reforms," President Magana added, "and the people's desperate situation because there is no peace, could be the reason why some sectors are supporting Arena's positions."

"The same attitude has caught on in the military sector, which some believe could be the solution; but the great majority of the armed forces does not believe so," President Magana pointed out.

Magana also admitted the existence of another Army group "which is sympathetic to a more advanced reformist movement, gathered around Colonel Majano," former member of the revolutionary junta, but Magana discarded any serious division in the Armed Forces.

The change in the Defense Ministry will bring about changes in its structure, which a special commission has been studying for several weeks. Among the changes, President Magana said that from now on, the Defense Ministry will be a political post and that the joint high staff will be in charge of military operations.

Referring to other issues, President Magana told ACAN-EFE, in his first public statement following Garcia's resignation, that the amnesty bill the Constituent Assembly is discussing will probably be issued this month.

It will benefit those up in arms and political prisoners. Meanwhile, the government is studying a rehabilitation system to have the guerrillas change their attitude and so that those that are in prison due to their involvement with subversion will not return to the ranks of the movement.

Regarding the elections to be held by the end of the year, President Magana has offered the left the "maximum security." "However, I do not have much hope that they will participate," he added. "If I were a subversive," Magana said, "and I decided to participate in the electoral process, then what would be the meaning of these 3 years of trying to solve the problem in a different way?"

Magana said that the Salvadoran conflict is not a civil war because the guerilla movement does not have the people's support. "There is no guerrilla movement in the world that can win without the people's support," Magana said. Furthermore, he added that the military campaign that the FMLN is currently carrying out by increasing its sabotage actions "is not increasing the sympathy it receives or the people's support."

When asked about human rights violation, Magana said that "in the midst of a conflict is very difficult to use corrective or effective measures."

"We have not been able to control some paramilitary forces, because the armed action that is taking place has made such control impossible," Magana pointed out.

"To the degree that the armed conflict loses importance, the human rights problem will decrease," he added.

He mentioned the efforts made by the official Human Rights Commission created last December. That group's effort has already made possible the release of 30 political prisoners by speeding up their trials.

Finally, when asked about the possibility that the government and the guerrilla may hold a dialogue in the near future, he was very pessimistic. He said that it was not a serious possibility because such talks cannot help resolve anything since "there is no good will." He said that probably the Salvadoran church "is trying to help, but that officially it has reached no agreement with the government."

He felt that the possibility of Spain participating in peace efforts for Latin American is limited since, in the specific case of El Salvador, the Socialist International's relations with the left are so obvious that it does not create "any confidence in a neutral attitude."

After rejecting a dialogue, and in view of the possibility that the guerrilla movement will not participate in the elections, President Magana said that if the people participate in the elections, there is no sense in the guerrillas continuing. "But this is hard for them to accept," Magana said in conclusion.

DUARTE COMMENTS ON VIDES CASANOVA APPOINTMENT

PA192015 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte, the Christian Democratic Party's presidential candidate, has said that Gen Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova's appointment as new defense minister strengthens the Armed Forces' unity and that the reforms will continue their normal course. The new candidate has also said that if he wins the election, something that he says will surely occur, he will open a process of dialogue with the armed sectors to find peace in the country. Duarte said the General Vides Casanova is the ideal man to secure the Army's unity after the departure of Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia.

ARMY EFFECTS CHANGES IN MILITARY COMMANDS

PA210016 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1748 GMT Apr 83

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Reliable sources told ACAN-EFE today that a series of changes in the military commands have taken place, following Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia's resignation as Salvadoran defense minister. That post has been offered to Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova.

Col Alejandro Cisneros, commander of the Army's 5th Infantry Brigade with headquarters in San Vicente, was transferred to the Defense Ministry. Lt Col Dionisio Hernandez, who was the commander in Chalatenango, has been appointed commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade replacing Colonel Cisneros.

Lt Col Gilberto Rubio, who was assistant director of Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School, has been appointed commander in Chalatenango.

Col Aristides Montes has been appointed National Guard director, replacing General Vides Casanova. Colonel Montes was assistant director of the National Guard. Col Jose Humberto Gomez was promoted to the post held by Montes.

TERRORISTS DESTROY SAN SEBASTIAN GOLD MINES

PA200454 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 18 Apr 83 p 1

[Excerpt] San Miguel, 19 Apr -- The San Sebastian mining complex, the richest gold mine in the country, was destroyed between 0530 and 0800 yesterday morning, leaving hundreds without a job.

Official sources said that some 400 terrorists wearing olive green uniforms surrounded and attacked the mining complex in San Sebastian, about 7 km from Santa Rosa de Lima, La Union Department. The eight national guardsmen who were on duty tried to repell the attack, but failed. Six were killed and two wounded. The wounded were taken to San Salvador.

Once in control of the facility, the terrorists placed dynamite charges in the mining complex and afterward set fire to it. The explosion destroyed modern processing machines, laboratories, administrative offices and equipment. Other equipment, electric installations inside and outside the buildings, and everything else was destroyed by the explosion and subsequent fire. Losses are estimated in the millions. The mine will be out of service for several years, perhaps indefinitely.

The following mines are in San Sebastian: El Mineral, 300 Taladron, 100 Limon, El Maranon (the most important), El Cahulote, El Aceituno, El Peris and some small gold veins. These mines were yielding 18 and 21 karat gold.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

76 POW's Taken in La Paz

PA190345 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] While the fascist military high command becomes divided, our revolutionary army continues taking over every enemy position included in our military plans. As a farewell to the defeated general, our people have achieved a great military victory in La Paz Department by snatching 70 rifles from the puppet army.

Here is the report sent to Radio Venceremos by the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front: Sunday, 17 April, La Paz Department. After 10 hours of combat FMLN forces took over enemy positions in (Siete Joyas), La Paz Department. During this operation the FMLN captured 76 prisoners of war. Six other captured enemy soldiers were released, including a second lieutenant. A partial report indicates that we recovered 70 U.S.-made rifles, 2 81-mm mortars, 1 60-mm mortar and 3 machineguns. During our next broadcasts we will enlarge on the information concerning this significant victory in La Paz Department, where our revolutionary army has dealt this overwhelming blow as a farewell to Garcia, the defeated general.

Action in La Union

PA190406 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] [Passage indistinct] FMLN forces today carried out orders issued by our general command, and continuing our "Commander Melida Anaya Montes, We Swear to Win" Campaign carried out the "Companero (Super Matias)" operation. The operation included the annihilation of enemy positions in (Las Minas de San Sebastian), located north of Santa Rosa de Lima, La Union Department. After 2 hours' combat, our forces had assumed total control of this important economic center of the dictatorship. The results of this operation are as follows; four national guardsmen and two paramilitary members killed. We recovered 4 G-3 rifles, 2 M-1 carbines, several Czechoslovak rifles, 600 dynamite sticks, 4,500 7.62-mm rounds and a large quanity of war supplies. Our forces then proceeded to destroy this important enemy center. This operation was led by Companero (Ramon) and [name indistinct]. United to fight until the final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! [Signed] Commanders (Chano Guevara) and (Arnulfo Morales) Commander Ana Maria, We Swear to Win!

Northeastern Front Report

PA191314 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Apr 83

[War bulletin issued by the General Command of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front on 18 April -- read by announcer]

[Text] New clashes occurred in Morazan Department today, 18 April, between units of our Rafael Antonio Arce Zablah Brigade and forces of the dictatorship's Atonal, Jaguar and Cuscatlan special battalions. The clashes occurred on Gavilan Hill and Aguacate Hill near the village of (Corinto).

On 18 April, our units patrolled that zone, to which the enemy's operation in northern La Union Department has been extended. Near (Corinto), the special battalions were once again backed by air and artillery fire. As on the 17 April, densely populated zones near (Corinto) were bombed and attacked with artillery fire. Our forces report that as a result of the clashes on the 18 April, they inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy. United to fight until the final victory; revolution or death, we will win.

Views on Garcia Resignation

PA191445 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The defeats that the FMLN in inflicting on the dictatorship's armed forces have led to the current crisis, which they are now trying to solve by dismissing Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, the defense minister. Garcia's image wore out for imperialism because he was unable to stop our forces' overwhelming advance. General Garcia, who proposed to defeat the revolutionary forces, was first defeated himself by the people up in arms.

We had announced General Garcia's dismissal several weeks ago. We reported that he did not want to leave his post because he wanted to get his cut of the massive U.S. aid. We also announced that General Vides Casanova would replace Garcia. Garcia's last lie at the time was to deny this report by Radio Venceremos.

The decision to remove the general of defeat from the Defense Ministry was made by neither Magana nor by Colonel Bustillo, the genocidal Air Force chief. The decision was made by the U.S. Embassy, which is desperately trying to improve the critical situation of an army without the leadership or authority necessary to conduct a war. Imperialism is in the critical position of trying to prevent further confrontations within the army. It is now in the difficult position of deciding who will replace Garcia. It is not easy. By rank, the post should go to General Vides Casanova, chief of the criminal national guard and protector of the oligarchy's interests. The moral responsibility for the murder of the four U.S. nuns falls on him, as well as the direct responsibility for many other murders and tortures.

Whomever the U.S. Embassy chooses to become the new defense minister will in no way resolve the institutional crisis of an army that has already lost all prospect of a victory. He won't be able to stop the people's victory, since it has been shown that it is not a matter of individuals or strategies because El Salvador today needs profound structural changes. The struggle that the Salvadoran people are currently waging is intended to bring about those changes.

The new defense minister will be faced with the army's demoralization; he will face the FMLN's advance. The advisers, the millions of dollars and Ronald Reagan's weapons will be useless. The puppet army's collapse is unavoidable. The appointment of another corrupt and genocidal general will not change the course of a history that is already being written with the Salvadoran people's victories.

FDR'S UNGO COMMENTS ON GARCIA RESIGNATION

PA190353 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Guillermo Ungo, president of the FDR of El Salvador, has said that the Salvadoran regime is mortally wounded, and the time is near when the Reagan administration will have to decide between a massive intervention or a political solution in El Salvador.

In a statement to PRELA in Stockholm, Ungo pointed out that the Salvadoran revolutionary forces have a permanent political will to hold a dialogue and negotiations. He added that this is the most reasonable and advisable way to prevent a major U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

Ungo is on a tour of Europe, accompanied by Salvador Samayoa, member of the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission, to maintain up-to-date and permanent contacts with friendly governments and parties.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT UNCOVERS PLOT TO MURDER RIOS MONTT

PA202155 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2149 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Apr (DPA) -- The government has uncovered a plot to assassinate Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt and probably some government officials and political leaders, Interior Minister Ricardo Mendez Ruiz disclosed today.

Mendez Ruiz said that "some political sectors" formed by "bad Guatemalans" hired three people in the city of Nueva Ocotepeque, Honduras, to do the killings, with the idea of destabilizing the Guatemalan Government. The minister added that the three are Ricardo Garcia, a lieutenant in the defunct Nicaraguan National Guard and two Honduran citizens whom Mendez Ruiz identified as "hired killers."

Mendez Ruiz said that these three are somewhere in this capital or nearby. He added that the security forces already know who they are and that they will be arrested at any moment. He said that once they are arrested they will be placed under the jurisdiction of the so-called "special tribunals."

Mendez Ruiz also said that these individuals were hired for the job because all coup d'etat attempts against the government have failed.

Finally, when asked about the political leaders that the hired killers were planning to assassinate, Mendez Ruiz said that he did not know who they are, but that the government probably would have been blamed for these assassinations.

HONDURAS

NICARAGUAN TROOPS ATTACK TWO BORDER POSTS

PA201620 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1448 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Choluteca, Honduras, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Two Honduran Army border posts were attacked yesterday afternoon by Nicaraguan troops using mortars and 50-cal machineguns.

Col Leonel Riera Lunati, commander of the 11th Infantry Battalion, today said that the posts attacked are those of Palo Verde and San Benito in the jurisdiction of Concepcion de Maria, a town in southern Choluteca Department which is on the border with Nicaragua. The officer said his troops did not suffer any casualties and that there were no casualties among the civilian population, which was alarmed because the attack lasted approximately 2 hours.

He also said that his troops did not repel the attack, because peace talks are currently being held in Panama among the foreign ministers of Central America, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama. The military report has already been sent to the Honduran Foreign Secretariat, which is preparing to lodge a new protest with the Nicaraguan Government, the UN Security Council and the OAS Permanent Council. Over the weekend and yesterday, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat sent firm formal protests to the Nicaraguan Government over the naval attacks on fishing and patrol boats in Honduran jurisdictional waters by Nicaraguan military boats.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS NICARAGUAN 'HARASSMENT'

PA202355 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2147 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Protest Note sent by Acting Foreign Secretary Arnulfo Pineda Lopez to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman on 20 April 1983 -- read by reporter Marco Tulio Romero]

[Text] Note No. (?TSS-321) Tegucigalpa, 20 April 1983

Mr Minister:

I am honored to write to Your Excellency to inform you about harassment actions against our territory in Concepcion de Maria jurisdiction, coordinates 0656, Choluteca Department. The actions by regular troops of the Sandinist Peoples Army occurred yesterday, 19 April.

The actions of which I inform Your Excellency were carried out against the Honduran communities of Palo Verde at 1705 with 82-mm mortar fire and of San Benito at 1800 with 50-cal machinegun fire. In denouncing these new hostile acts and attacks against Honduran territorial integrity to Your Excellency, my government presents its strongest protest to the illustrious Nicaraguan Government.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest and distinguished consideration.

[Signed] Arnulfo Pineda Lopez, Acting Foreign Secretary [To] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Managua, Nicaragua

Copies of this protest note have been sent to the OAS Permanent Council and the UN Security Council. Tegucigalpa, 20 April 1983 Directorate of Information and Press, Foreign Relations Secretariat

NICARAGUA

REPORT ON MONTES MURDER, CAYETANO CARPIO SUICIDE

PA210347 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0305 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry on 20 April 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Interior Ministry announces to the Nicaraguan people that in the investigation conducted by our security and police organization regarding the assassination of Companera Melida Anaya Montes, Commander Ana Maria, we have obtained certain results.

These are: 1. The investigation has led us to clarify the circumstance under which the crime was committed, as well as to identify and arrest the perpetrators whose names are the following:

a. Rogelio A. Bazzaglia Recinos, 28 years old, the mastermind and organizer of the criminal action. He was arrested on 9 April 1983.

b. (Walter Ernesto Diaz), 18 years old; (Andres Vasquez Molina), 22 years old; and (Julio A. Soto Arellano), 25 years old, perpetrators of the crime. The weapons they used and clothing they wore during the crime were found in their possession. They were captured on 12 April 1983.

c. (Alejandro Romero Romero), 24 years old, and (Maria Argota Hernandez), 39 years old, accomplices who helped the homicidal group enter Ana Maria's house. They were arrested on the same day the crime was committed. All of them are Salvadorans.

2. The statements by the inmates and the other investigations proved that the mastermind of this crime used the pseudonym Marcelo and is a member of the Central Command of the Peoples Liberation Forces, FPL of El Salvador, where he held a top position very close to Companero Salvador Cayetano Carpio, Commander Marcial, top leader of that revolutionary organization.

3. Using the position he had within the FPL and the trust that Carpio had in him, this individual took advantage of Carpio's absence to sow political distrust among certain FPL rank-and-file members against Companera Montes. These members were manipulated and influenced so that they would commit the crime.

4. The evolution of events and our investigation indicate to us that these incidents are the result of enemy activity characteristic of the CIA.

5. Once the perpetrators of the crime had been arrested and important results of the investigations were obtained, the Interior Ministry passed the information to Companero Carpio.

Disheartened and shocked by the irrefutable evidence of the enemy activity carried out by one of his most trusted men, activity which culminated with the assassination of Montes, Companero Carpio, Commander Marcial, made the tragic decision to kill himself at 2100 on Tuesday, 12 April. His wife (Tula Alvarenga) de Carpio and other companeros who were at the house at the time immediately informed this ministry.

6. Because of the political nature of the incident and in a gesture of respect, our government accepted the request of Carpio's relatives to wait until they had informed the organization before publicly announcing this tragic incident.

7. The revolutionary government made the necessary arrangements for Carpio's relatives to bury him on 13 April. Commanders of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Tomas Borge attended the funeral.

8. The Interior Ministry will continue the investigation until it determines the final ties of these tragic incidents of which Commander Marcial and Commander Ana Maria, first and second FPL commanders, have been indirect and direct victims.

9. When it is deemed appropriate, those responsible for the crime will be turned over to the courts for trial.

Issued in Managua on 20 April 1983. Free Fatherland or Death! Public and Foreign Relations Department of the Interior Ministry.

LIBYAN OFFICE ISSUES STATEMENT ON PLANE INCIDENT

PA210430 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has issued the following message:

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, today expressed regret at the dishonesty of the Jamahiriyah's official in charge of civil aviation for not informing the friendly Brazilian authorities about the cargo of the squadron of Libyan planes flying across the ocean to Nicaragua.

He said that Libya has never concealed from the world its all-out support for Nicaragua because of its just and sacred cause. He added that Libya will continue its support for the Nicaraguan people just as it supports all the peoples who struggle for freedom, peace and progress.

He noted that he regrets that imperialism (?may gain by) pitting Latin American countries one against the other just as it is doing with Arab and African countries.

HAVANA CITES INTERIOR MINISTER ON PASTORA

PA201732 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge declared in Managua that traitor Eden Pastora is not in the country. He said, however: We wish that he would keep his promise and come, for we will be waiting for him. Borge made the statement at a news conference in which he commented on Pastora's recent announcement that he would return to Nicaragua this month to fight the FSLN.

The interior minister added ironically that he knows that some photos of Eden Pastora, which he claimed to be scenes of his fighting in the Nicaraguan mountains, were taken in his own backyard.

Tomas Borge, who chairs the national committee created to commemorate the Liberator's 200th birthday, said at the news conference that Nicaragua will pay tribute to the revolutionary Simon Bolivar, who has often been discredited and even insulted. The Latin Americans, he noted, are committed to restoring the revolutionary image of Bolivar, particularly now, when his words -- that the United States seems predestined by Providence to plague Latin America with misery in the name of freedom -- gain such force.

REBEL BANDS KILL PEASANT, KIDNAP EIGHT

PA202021 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] A press communique released in Managua today reported that counterrevolutionary bands murdered peasant Segundo Betanco and kidnapped eight other people, including six minors. This criminal action, the communique added, took place at Vado Ancho, in Chinandega Department. The counterrevolutionaries entered Nicaragua from Honduras, where they have their camps and are advised and financed by the Honduran Army and the U.S. Government.

REACTION TO EXPULSION OF UN DIPLOMATS BY U.S.

FL201551 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1518 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The Reagan administration has undertaken another hostile action against our country by ordering the U.S. State Department to expell two Cuban diplomats under the pretext of alleged illegal activities.

The U.S. authorities continue to maintain a consistent and systematic campaign against Cuba's permanent mission to the United Nations in New York City, by which they violate the commitment they assumed as host country.

The expulsion of Cuban diplomats is a regular procedure to which Washington resorts constantly in its hostile campaign toward our country. As usual, the State Department offered no proof of culpability of justify the adoption of the measure.

Cuba's permanent mission to the United Nations sent a protest note to the U.S. mission complaining about Washington's arbitrary action.

Expulsion Protested

PA201639 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The Cuban mission at the UN has issued a note strongly rejecting the expulsion by the U.S. Government of two Cuban diplomats charged with activities alien to their functions. The measure affects Rolando Salup Canto and Joaquin Rodobaldo Penon Cejas, third secretary and diplomatic attache at the Cuban mission.

The note, released by the Cuban representative, explained that the two officials are engaged in their official duties as members of the Cuban diplomatic mission, conforming to the privileges granted by the existing protocol between the United Nations and the United States.

Since July 1982, the United States has expelled five Cubans diplomats accredited to the United Nations, without having ever submitted conclusive evidence of the charges filed.

HAVANA VIEWS MEXICO-U.S. JOINT COMMUNIQUE

FL202120 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1924 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico confirmed its independent foreign policy before the United States during the third meeting of the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission which agreed to establish annual Juarez-Lincoln conferences and a tourism agreement.

From the final communique released at the end of the talks, it was evident that Mexico maintained its inalterable position, aimed at the search for negotiated political solutions to conflicts and particularly those agitating Central America. The communique revealed that as far as the Central American situation is concerned, the two sides agreed to advance the process of dialogue and negotiation which would lead to peaceful conditions for development in that region.

The joint communique announced that in the area of trade, the two sides discussed incentives for exports but made no reference to the negative effects which Mexico suffered by the withdrawal of Mexican products from the U.S. market.

FIDEL CASTRO, WPC'S ROMESH CHANDRA HOLD TALKS

FL201303 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Romesh Chandra, chairman of the World Peace Council.

Chandra traveled to Cuba to attend the Seminar on the Military-Industrial Complex, sponsored by the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples and the World Peace Council, in honor of the World Assembly for Peace and Life and Against Nuclear War.

FMLN REPRESENTATIVE MAKES STATEMENTS IN HAVANA

FL201950 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Jorge Rodriguez, member of the representation in Cuba of the Farabundo Marti Front for the National Liberation of El Salvador (FMLN), gave a press conference in our capital on the third anniversary of the creation of the Revolutionary Democratic Front.

Rodriguez explained that in these three years it has been possible, through the union of the revolutionary forces, to step up the intensity of the struggle and the political work with the masses, despite strong repression on the part of the regime.

Jorge Rodriguez attacked the fake democratization maneuver mounted by Washington, which Alvaro Magana's government intends to implement through elections next December; through the amnesty program for the 1,000 political prisoners; through the respect for the lives of guerrillas who lay down their arms; and through some laws allegedly benefiting the workers.

He said that the current offensive, called "Commander Ana Maria: "We Swear to Win," mounted in homage of the murdered leader of the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL), will not be stopped and that the demoralized Salvadoran Army is kept together only because of the aid it receives from the United States.

HAVANA VOICES SOLIDARITY WITH CHILEAN SOCIALISTS

FL202025 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The Chilean Socialist Party today celebrates its 50th anniversary under the worst conditions of repression and persecution since its founding. Its entire history has been one of struggle and it is facing a tough and bloody fight in the future. This political organization was one of the main pillars of the Government of Popular Unity.

The Augusto Pinochet fascist coup d'etat and the brutal cruelty waged by the military against the revolutionaries have provoked great waves of protests and condemnation which are impossible to ignore.

On this 50th anniversary of the founding of the Socialist Party, the Cuban people, faithful to their internationalist spirit, reiterate to their Chilean brothers their strongest and most militant solidarity.

BARBADOS

BANK ANNOUNCES $5 MILLION COLOMBIAN CREDIT

FL202045 Bridgetwon CANA in English 2027 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 20, CANA -- Colombia has extended a five million dollar (U.S.) line of credit to Barbados as the two countries seek to deepen trading relations. However, a Central Bank of Barbados spokesman told CANA today the line of credit would not be utilised until bilateral negotiations were completed to lower tariff barriers between the two countries. "We are trying to encourage trade between the two countries," said acting Central Bank general manager, Calvin Springer. The central banks of Barbados and Colombia signed the agreement for the line of credit last month, it was officially announced today.

The Central Bank official said Barbados was looking for ways of getting into the Colombian market but local manufacturers were faced with high tariff barriers. The bank spokesman said negotiations on lowering the tariff barriers between the two countries involved the two central banks. Barbados imported 2.7 million dollars (one BDS dollar; 50 cents U.S.) worth of goods from Colombia last year and exported 38,800 dollars worth. Colombia's ambassador to Barbados, Dr Carlos Ayerbe, said the line of credit could be used to import virtually any type of goods from Bogota.

Ayerbe told the daily "ADVOCATE-NEWS" newspaper there was continuing contact between the Central Bank and the Export Promotion Corporation (EPC) in Barbados and their counterparts in Colombia aimed at increasing trading relations. Barbados imports mainly cement from Colombia. Ambassador Ayerbe said trade had been hampered by a lack of adequate transportation. But he announced that from next month, a Colombian cargo airline, Tampa S.A., would be linking up four Colombian cities and Trinidad and Barbados once a week. The aircraft will be flying from the Colombian cities Bogota, Medellin, Cali and Barranquilla.

The primary products which Barbados was expected to import from Colombia, the ambassador continued, were foodstuff, construction material and agricultural machinery. Ayerbe said trading between Barbados and Colombia would be two-way. The main products Colombia was interested in importing from Barbados were roofing tiles, rum and electrical components. Barbados had expressed an interest in exporting cane harvesters, chemicals, clothing, solar water heaters, furniture and peppers, Ambassador Ayerbe said.

GRENADA

BISHOP COMMENTS ON TRIP TO DPRK, SOVIET UNION

FL210105 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Prime Minister Brother Maurice Bishop has described the recent cooperation agreement signed between Grenada and the DPRK as a sign of the good internationalist conscience of the DPRK and that country's desire to deepen relations with Grenada.

He said all five requests made to the Koreans were agreed to under the agreements which is critical for the further development of the revolution. Areas of cooperation agreed to include assistance in irrigation and the provision of technology, as well as experts coming to Grenada to work in this area. This will mean that Grenada will be able to irrigate just under 1,000 acres of land, thus providing farmers with the possibility to provide food throughout the year.

Under the agreement, the Koreans will also provide Grenada with agricultural equipment, including 30 new tractors complete with implements and items such as forks and spades.

Another area of assistance agreed to is in the setting up of the new agroindustrial farms with a capacity for processing some 500 tons of food annually. In the area of fisheries, Korean experts will come to Grenada to build tuna fishing boats and at the same time provide Grenada with the technology to build more boats in the future. The final area agreed to was Korean assistance in building a national sports stadium with a capacity for seating some 15,000 persons.

[Begin Bishop recording] I am sure that is going to be a very welcome bit of news for so many of our sportsmen and all our sports-loving people in general.

[Question by reporter indistinct]

[Bishop] The DPRK will provide (?in its turn) materials and equipment, will provide the designs and drawings and will provide the supervisory personnel to ensure the construction is along the lines that our [words indistinct] [end recording]

The prime minister said the Korean technical experts will begin arriving in Grenada toward the end of this year to conduct on-the-site inspections, after which they will proceed with drawings and designs to be agreed upon by both governments. The DPRK also agreed to pay the return passages of these experts who will come to Grenada as well as to pay them their full salaries during the period when they are here.

In talks with the Korean leadership, the prime minister expressed Grenada's wish for a speedy reunification of the two Koreas which were separated by the Americans following World War II. The talks also focused on the situation in the two respective regions and the threats being posed to the revolutionary processes in both Korea and Grenada by U.S. imperialism. The two sides also dealt with the question of world peace and expressed solidarity with the Palestinians as well as the people of Namibia, South Africa and Nicaragua. All these issues were reflected in a joint communique issued at the end of the Grenada delegation's visit to the DPRK.

On his way home from the DPRK, Prime Minister Bishop also held talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko during a stopover in the Soviet Union. These talks dealt with the situation in the Caribbean and Latin America, particularly in Nicaragua and Grenada. Prime Minister Bishop said the delegation also received a Soviet assessment on the disarmament talks in Geneva. The attitude and the responses of the Soviet Union to the zero option proposed by President Ronald Reagan and his more recent interim proposal which is in fact the same zero option in disguise. These talks, according to Comrade Bishop, served to reinforce Grenada's view that the Soviet Union is desirous of working out an agreement with the United States in the areas of arms limitations, nuclear (?arms) and disarmament.

The Soviet-Grenada agreement was also examined during the talks and Prime Minister Bishop expressed his appreciation [words indistinct].

At another stopover in London, the prime minister addressed a rally of 1,500 Grenadian nationals, other Caribbean nationals and supporters and well-wishers of the Grenada revolution in Britain. At this rally the prime minister spoke on the situation in Grenada and the threats being posed to the revolution by U.S. imperialism.

[Begin Bishop recording] The Grenadians were all very very concerned. After the rally, there was a small reception in the [word indistinct] building [words indistinct] and the rally occasioned then to meet several dozens of Grenadians and there was new forms of concern being shown by Grenadians in the United Kingdom. Not only were they very concerned about the fact that the country is under threat, I would say they were particularly concerned, and in light of all the facts, that this threat from foreign (?sectors) was coming about in fact because of our international airport, one thing about which Grenadians abroad are particular. When Reagan [word indistinct] the airport which (?his proposal) is the one thing he shouldn't touch, because all of them see that airport as being by far the most important project to them. Because after all, that is their way of coming straight home. And we had several very, very graphic ways, we found graphic ways, of this sentiment being put to us. [end recording]

That was Prime Minister Bishop. Prime Minister Bishop also held a press conference during his stopover in London.

AUSTIN EXPLAINS WHY IMPERIALISM HAS NOT ATTACKED

FL210222 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Grenadians are again being urged to participate fully in the militia and to become involved in the upcoming (Jeremiah Richardson) Defense of the Homeland Maneuver. The call has come from Gen Hudson Austin of the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces.

In an interview with RFG [Radio Free Grenada] news General Austin warned that imperialism will never rest in its efforts to turn back the revolution. He said there are several reasons why imperialism has not yet launched its attack on Grenada.

[Begin Austin recording] First and foremost we must look at, from the time Reagan made his statement that Grenada is a threat to the United States, the unity of our people. Our people have come out in a united way, they have mobilized themselves, they have become concerned at what was going on. And that is one of the reasons why imperialism has not attacked yet.

The quick mobilization by the party and government and people in all fields, all (?spheres), is one of the main reasons why imperialism has not attacked. The public opinion of the (?world) organizations that we were able to mobilize in different countries and even inside the United States itself, we were able to mobilize public opinion, is what has held back imperialism so far. [end recording]

Gen Hudson Austin of the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces. And we would just like to remind listeners of the special program focusing on the upcoming maneuver which is scheduled for 8 o'clock [0000 GMT] this evening.

STATION NOTES U.S. CONGRESSMEN TO VISIT IN MAY

FL202356 St Georges Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] A group of Americans led by two congressmen will visit Grenada next month for the first time to look at the situation here in light of charges made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

GOVERNMENT OPENS BIG SEAPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

FL190245 Bridgetown CANA in English 2348 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 18, CANA -- Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has started a big seaport improvement project which it says will bring many benefits to the country and contribute to the overall growth of the economy.

The main benefits have been listed as reduction in ships turn-around time, a drop in cargo-handling cost, the alleviation of congestion along the Carenage, and time saving in loading and off-loading cargo. Work began in mid-February, and according to project manager Oscar Phillip excavation is completed and foundation work for a baggage shed and a workshop is in progress.

The project is part of a multi-million dollar plan to upgrade infrastructure in the small Caribbean island, where an international airport is now under construction.

The seaport project consists of the construction of a 250 foot schooner berth to cater for inter-island traffic, the repair of a wharf and pier, the provision of an area for containerised cargo and the improvement of the functionsl and operational quality of the part.

"The improvement will be achieved through the relocation of buildings, the provision of cargo handling equipment, management of the Grenada Port Authority and training of managerial and operational staff," the Government's Information Service (GIS) has said.

A pre-investment study was completed in 1980. The project should have been completed in June 1982, but due to various constraints, work only began last February 14, the GIS said.

The project is being funded by the government, and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) under a loan agreement which was signed in September 1981

The cost of the project is 7.502 million dollars (one EC dollar, 37 cents U.S.). However, the Canadian Government has undertaken to supply the manpower training at the value of 1.45 million dollars which is included in the overall figure. Added to the Canadian input is a technical assistance package.

The project manager said that because of the limited capacity of local contractors to handle a project of this magnitude, it was decided to divide the project into two phases -- on-short and off-shore phases.

The main reason for this, he said, was to allow the local contractors to tender for the on-shore work, which included the removal ov paving, lighting relocation, removal and construction of buildings and relocation of drains.

The contract for the on-shore work has been awarded to the local firm, Smith/Strachan Gordon.

The marine works, which include dredging, the construction of the schooner berth and repair of the existing pier, has been awarded to a Trinidad firm, Marine Contractors. Contracts for both phases were signed on January 27. Start of the marine work was delayed because two wrecks were on the site of the proposed schooner berth. "These wrecks have since been removed partly with the help of the Cuban internationalist workers at the airport site," GIS said, and the port manager has directed the consultant to issue the order to the Marine Contractors to begin work.

JAMAICA

GLASSPOLE VOICES FEARS OVER OIL ARRANGEMENT

FL142306 Bridgetown CANA in English 2111 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 14, CANA -- Jamaica today signalled its fears over the future of the Mexico-Venezuela oil facility and the impact the suspension or scaling back of the programme will have on its own economy. Under the facility Mexico and Venezuela give a number of Central American and Caribbean countries a 30 per cent rebate on their cash payment for oil, transforming it to soft-term credit. But the falling oil prices and the economic difficulties of the two countries have put the future of the 700 million dollar (U.S.) a year facility in doubt.

The issue was addressed today by the Jamaican Governor General Sir Florizel Glasspole during his speech from the throne at the state opening of Parliament. Sir Florizel said that Jamaica had received substantial [benefits] under the scheme which could be used for specific investment projects. "This has up to now favourably affected the economy," the governor general said. But added Sir Florizel: "Present developments, however, concerning the price of oil and its impact on policies relating to Mexico and Venezuela will have implications for the continuation of this programme and its benefits during the current year, which will be addressed in the budget presentation." Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Edward Seaga is expected to present the budget in two weeks time.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LOCAL ELECTIONS TO TEST PNM'S POPULARITY

FL210136 Bridgetown CANA in English 2247 GMT 20 Apr 83

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 20, CANA -- More than 200 politicians have started campaigning for local government elections in Trinidad and Tobago -- the first major test of the popularity of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) since its landslide general elections win in November 1981.

The PNM is currently under fire from other parties for alleged corruption and economic mismanagement as the twin-island, oil-rich republic struggles under the impact of the international recession and falling revenues from the petroleum industry, its key foreign exchange earner. No date has been set for the roll, held every three years, but tomorrow the life of the PNM-Dominated councils is expected to end.

Some 120 seats are at stake in the four municipal and seven city councils into which the country is divided and the PNM said it would contest all. The councils -- largely funded by the central government -- are responsible for construction and maintenance of bridges, distribution of truck-borne water, management of markets and the maintenance of burial grounds. They also establish and maintain libraries, public infant health care institutions, and erect monuments and foundations. This year, seven more seats have been added to the 113 contested in the 1980 elections, which saw the PNM winning 101 seats, the United Labour Front (ULF) eight and independents four.

Tobago, 21 miles to the northeast of Trinidad, is not included in the elections. It is now governed by a special House of Assembly under which elections were held for the first time in 1980. In those elections, the Democratic Action Congress (DAC) led by ex-PNM Cabinet Minister A.N.R. Robinson, won eight of the 12 seats, with the others going to the PNM.

Vice chairman of the opposition Organisation of National Reconstruction (ONR) Clive Pantin, said the ONR has been talking with an alliance of three parties -- the DAC, the main opposition United Labour Front (ULF) and the Tapia House Movement -- on the possibility of "an accommodation" for the elections, but stressed that "there was no question of the ONR joining the alliance." Mr Pantin said the "accomodation" could take the form of the ONR and the alliance agreeing not to fight against each other for some seats. The ONR has named only 30 candidates, while the alliance has so far announced 58, mainly in the sugar belt, rural areas and the south where the ULF popularity is high.

The alliance has left the municipalities alone, apparently providing space for the ONR, which may have a better chance of picking up seats in the smaller pockets of elections into which the country is divided for these elections. Ako Mutota, spokesman for the radical leftwing group, the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC), said: "NJAC is fighting all 120 seats. The black power-oriented party has announced 60 candidates, including six who unsuccessfully contested the last general elections. Mutota added: "We are waging our campaign especially around the spirtual crisis existing within the nation, including corruption, the need for new national leadership, and a call to retrench the government and not the workers."

In the last local government elections, only three out of every 10 registered voters went to the polls. The EXPRESS newspaper observed then: "It could be this poor turnout was an indication of voter apathy towards institutions which make so little impact on the day-to-day lives of citizens all over the country." The republic has more than 765,000 registered voters and 1,067 polling stations.

At a mass party rally last weekend, Prime Minister and party leader George Chambers said a large percentage of the candidates was young. Prime Minister Chambers has shrugged aside charges of mismanagement and corruption, saying they were made by persons who "ought properly under the mental health act to be confined to a psychiatric ward." He added: "When I am ready I will speak to the population of the decline of parliamentary standards." "When I am ready, and until I am ready, not a single bloody person is going to get me to come out of my crease."

PRIME MINISTER ALIBUX IMPLICATED IN DEC KILLINGS

PM201443 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 16 Apr 83 pp 1, 5

[Unnamed "own correspondent" report: "Alibux Involved in Executions"]

[Excerpt] Amsterdam [no date given] -- Suriname's present Prime Minister Errol Alibux seems to have been directly involved in the executions of 15 prominent Surinamers on the night of 8 - 9 December in Fort Zeelandia. He was the only civilian involved in the decision to kill the 15. The most important soldiers involved were Bouterse, Horb, Sital and Bhagwandas. There probably were plans for a coup against the Bouterse regime at Christmas 1982.

All this is contained in an eyewitness account from Lieutenant Mahadatch, who has fled to the Netherlands. On 8 and 9 December he was on duty in the fort and saw (part of) what happened there that night. Lieutenant Mahadatch is one of 12 officers suspended by Army leader Bouterse at the end of December because they had criticized the executions.

It was originally assumed that the liquidation of the 15 was a purely military matter. It was known that Prime Minister Alibux was involved in drawing up a list of people to be arrested because of suspicions of involvement in coup plans. But according to Mahadatch's report, Alibux was present when the decions to carry out the executions was made.